(b) The approximate time by when Nanded, Parbhani and Jalna are likely to be connected with STD system is as follows:—

Nanded .. 1987-88
Prabhani .. 1989-90
Jalna .. 1986-87

Rural Post Offices in Maharashtra

1837. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) How many villages in Maharashtra have been provided with Post Offices as on 30th June, 1986;

(b) what is the number of Post Offices connected by telegraph and telephone connections in Maharashtra; and

(c) whether telephones in rural Post offices of Maharashtra are working satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) 10,665 villages in Maharashtra have been provided with post offices up to 30th June, 1986.

(b) 2257 post offices are provided with telegraph|telephone facilities in Maharashtra.

(c) Generally, the service has been satisfactory.

1838. [*Transferred to the 14th August*, 1986].

Import of drugs and medicines

1839. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be please to state:

(a) the names of the drugs and medicines imported from foreign countries during the last two years, year-wise and what is the total amount involved;

(b) whether it is a fact that these drugs can be manufactured indigenously at much lower cost; and

(c) what measures Government have taken to stop import of the drugs and start production thereof in India itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Details of import of drugs covering quantity imported and value of such imports as available are given in 'Indian Drugs Statistics' 1984-85, a copy of which is available in Parliament Library.

(b) No exercise has been carried out in this regard.

(c) As and when indigenous production of any Bulk Drug is commenced, suitable restrictions are considered in its imports on merits.

Telephone exchanges in Orissa

1840. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be please to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to open twenty-eight new telephone exchanges in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the names of the places where these exchanges are proposed to be opened and by when these are likely to be set up;

(c) whether the manual telephone exchanges at Samalpur have been converted into automatic telephone exchanges; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The information is given in the Statement (*See* below):